



## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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MAR 16 2007

### To Whom It May Concern:

In compliance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article, Section 4-742, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has published a map summarizing the status of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Oyster & Clam Harvesting Waters as of December 31, 2006. A copy of the map and a description of the location of the restricted and conditionally approved shellfish waters identified by the numbers on the map are enclosed with this letter. The map is also available on the MDE website at <http://www.mde.state.md.us>.

The map generally depicts the classification of shellfish waters of the State: restricted, conditionally approved, or approved. Restricted means that no direct harvesting of oysters and clams is allowed at any time. Harvest from restricted areas (private leases and/or aquaculture only) is permitted by request for the purpose of natural cleansing (relay). Request for relay of oysters or clams from restricted waters to approved waters must be made in writing to the Department in advance of possible relay dates. Relay can only occur outside of oyster season and when water temperatures are above 50°F. Conditionally approved means that oysters and clams can be directly harvested except for the three days following a rainfall of an inch or greater in twenty-four hours. Harvesters are notified of conditional closings daily by an announcement broadcast by the Maryland Natural Resources Police made at 5, 6, and 7 a.m. on VHF radio band 14, by calling toll free 1-800-541-1210, or by visiting MDE's web site daily advisory on conditionally approved shellfish areas at [http://www.mde.state.md.us/CitizensInfoCenter/FishandShellfish/shellfish\\_advisory/](http://www.mde.state.md.us/CitizensInfoCenter/FishandShellfish/shellfish_advisory/). Approved means oysters and clams may be harvested any time that is consistent with the Department of Natural Resources harvesting regulations.

Because of scale and map resolution, two critical categories are not represented on this summary map. A small portion of Maryland's oyster and clam harvesting waters are classified as prohibited. Shellfish may not be legally taken from waters classified as prohibited for any purpose because of the high potential for contamination. In addition, near-shore areas (shallow waters up to approximately 200 feet from shore) may appear as approved on the map because of inadequate resolution. These waters may be unmonitored and therefore unclassified as well as unsuitable for harvesting until they are monitored and classified as restricted, conditionally approved, or approved. Interested persons should contact the Department to determine the classification of all near-shore waters.

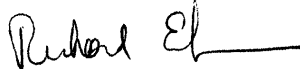
To Whom It May Concern  
Page Two

Maryland is a member state of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP), which is a federal/state cooperative program recognized by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) for the sanitary control of shellfish produced and sold for human consumption. MDE uses the bacteriological standards as set forth in the NSSP for shellfish harvesting area classifications based on bacteriological water quality and sanitary survey. In addition to shoreline surveys that assess potential and actual pollution sources and risk, the bacteriological fecal coliform standards that must be met for each classification and are listed below:

<u>Approved/Conditionally Approved:</u>	<u>Restricted: (relay required)</u>	<u>Prohibited: (No Harvest)</u>
Median $\leq 14$ MPN/100ml 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile $< 49$	Median $\leq 88 > 14$ MPN/100ml 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile $< 300$	Median $> 88$ MPN/ 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile $> 300$

We hope this information is useful to you. If you have any comments, if your address has changed or is incorrect or if you are no longer interested in receiving updates of this information, please contact Ms. Kathy Brohawn, Chief, Shellfish Certification Division at (410) 537-3906 or via email at [kbrohawn@mde.state.md.us](mailto:kbrohawn@mde.state.md.us)

Sincerely,



Richard A. Eskin, Ph.D., Director  
Science Services Administration

